



Award of Spirit of ICED to Denis Berthiaume

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Nominated in May 2018 by:

Ariane Dumont, President, Swiss Faculty Development Network and ICED Council Representative

Denis began faculty development work in fall 1999, when he joined the Centre for University Teaching and Learning at McGill University, in Montreal, Canada, as a research and faculty development assistant. He worked there until 2005, whilst completing his doctoral studies in Educational Psychology, specialising in Instructional Psychology and Applied Cognitive Science.

During his stay at McGill University, he participated in Faculty Development workshops at McGill University, at other universities in Canada, and at the University of Osaka, in Japan.

In 2005, Denis moved to the University of Southampton, United Kingdom, where he worked on developing the activities of the Centre for Learning and Teaching along the lines of the newly created Professional Standards Framework. He also continued helping colleagues at Osaka University, Japan, develop policies and programmes for the professional development of academic staff. Some of the material produced then has been used by other universities in Japan since.

In 2006, Denis was appointed Director of the newly-created Centre for Teaching and Learning at the University of Lausanne, in Switzerland. In addition to setting up the centre and developing a full programme of activities at the University of Lausanne, Denis collaborated with colleagues from other French-speaking universities to develop FD activities in all of those institutions. He was President of the Swiss Faculty Development Network from 2008 until 2010 and led various working groups on teaching and learning in higher education at the national level in Switzerland.

During his stay at the University of Lausanne, Denis was frequently asked to travel abroad to help institutions or countries reflect on their Faculty Development offer. He travelled to Belgium, Canada, Estonia, France, Germany, Japan, Hungary, Morocco, and Tunisia either to give FD workshops, to train Faculty Developers, or to provide advice to universities or ministries.

In 2012, Denis established himself in Paris and began consulting work with over 30 French universities, either advising the person appointed to set up a faculty development unit, training newly-hired faculty developers, or advising university leadership on teaching and learning, as well as the professional development of academic staff.

During that period, Denis edited two volumes of a French-language handbook on teaching and learning in higher education which has become the most widely used manuals for teaching and learning in higher education in French-speaking countries.

In 2014, Denis came back to Switzerland to become Vice-rector for Quality Assurance and Enhancement at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland where he oversaw all efforts made towards institutional accreditation, including the development of a broad programme of FD activities and capacity within the institution.

During that period, Denis continued to provide advice to other higher education institutions in Belgium, Cyprus, France, Morocco, Slovenia, and Switzerland. In the closing keynote of the 2016 European Quality Assurance Forum, held in Ljubjana, Slovenia, he showed how quality assurance and faculty development can contribute to one another to ensure that students got the best learning experience possible in higher education.

Denis retired from his post at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland in 2017 for medical reasons. He has since been working on a series of practical guidebooks on various aspects of higher education to be published in French by deBoeck, in Brussels, Belgium.